



Introduction to GBIF-National Capacity Building Workshop for Solomon Islands, Honiara, Kitano Mendana Hotel

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GBIF national workshop presentations and discussions among stakeholders which was facilitated by MECDM ECD Principal Conservation Officer, Mr Veira Talilotu Pulekera, Honiara

Photos: supplied by Veira Pulekera, ECD, MECDM, Solomon Islands

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General Discussions			
Organizations	Reporting Updates	Issues	Recommendations
Biosecurity-Solomon Islands MAL	Reports through NPPO For registry (Regional Body-SPC); example Pest-Risk Data. A number of other Regional Platforms support the Biosecurity on developing Invasive Species data-base.	This is an important platform to also recognize the importance of knowledge and informations in various sectors in Solomon Islands, like MAL, etc. How this will function is also an important area to consider, especially for Solomon Islands. Data-MAL experiences- do not have full control over certain reports, which were seen as sensitive	There should be a national Authority established for Solomon Islands that could enhance protection, vetting and sharing of Data necessary. Issues remains- on sensitive report/undisclosed reports which were seen as confidential
MFMR	Has existing Data Portal Both for offshore and Inshore Fisheries held (in-house) at Ministerial level (MFMR) Data were also shared with other regional data-portals and partners such as SPC, etc.	There is also high risk of losing data, if in – house data-storage (desktop) crushed/damaged. Important valuable data for informing decision making will also be at risk if they are not kept in proper/safe facilities or documented or copied	
MoFR	The National Herbarium functions as the Research Unit of the Ministry of Forestry and Research. Focusing on Collection and storage of Plant specimen for Solomon Islands. The National Herbarium collection over 5000 specimens, while over 7000	Although, there are many efforts to accommodate the Divisions expectation, Human resource capacity remains a challenge. Another huge issue is there is no updated systematic process to protect informations	

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	specimens kept in USP Herbarium(in Fiji)	and datas at the national level. There are large number of reports and collective research conducted with other institutions on flora of Solomon Islands , but needs proper system to facilitate sharing of informations	
MECDM-ECD	Recently develop an in-house data registry; but would need to finalize its final layout. Currently kept records or reports on hard drives for filing according to specific bioresearches approved under PA Act research application process.	Reports were kept by MECDM, ECD after provided by the Researchers. However, there is limited advanced system to tract progress and record of various reports. Data/copies was only retrieved once approval of research permit was granted base on its conditions.	
NGOs	NGOs has their own protocols in conducting researches.	GBIF-PBIF is fine and is one way of sharing data or vital informations. However, the responsible government sectors must strengthen its processes or create a system where datas/relevant informations must be assessed and shared where applicable.	This provides for a clear advice and guidance from GBIF team.

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Discussions on way Forward-Summary

- Participants acknowledged that the introduction of GIBIF Program and the PBIF as a platform for sharing datas and understand the positive outcomes or benefits expected from the training, especially on publishing datas, understand how to review and access the datas.
- Participants also shared their views and experiences on managing datas at the national level, especially at the Ministerial level. The issues of data accessibility, storage and protection remains a huge challenge for Solomon Islands. This was highlighted during the workshop.
- In addition to challenges of data protection, there is currently no infrastructure or system set in place at the national level which has the mandate to focus on facilitating the process of accessing, vetting for disseminating datas under specific categories (example, public data; sensitive datas etc.) and properly function as central governing body which displays key role on keeping record of key researches conducted throughout Solomon Islands. Currently the data storage and record are done on a sectoral level basis.
- Questions were raised on the issue of the sustainability of GBIF-PBIF data portal. There are several experiences which occurred with other Regional Platforms such as SPC, where administrators serve on certain period, and then left. So once request was made to Access Data portals, there is no longer any response or data were no longer accessed.
- The meeting agreed to the process of identifying datasets with stakeholders and NGOs. We will confirm national process for datasets sharing and agreements (MoA or MoU) then datasets can be shared with the national focal point & subsequently to GBIF/PBIF data portal.

Recommendations

- i. Stakeholders anticipated similar workshop for the next meeting in-country with GBIF team, so that other issues can also be discussed directly with the team, including resources and other training needs.
- ii. Solomon Islands realises the importance of knowledge and informations through various datas, therefore recommend to strengthen a national body or institution (example SINU-Solomon Islands National University or Environment & Conservation Division) which can function as overall administrator or secretariat to all knowledge and informations; where datas may be verified, vetted and assessed for public information, or defined under certain categories identified to protect specific informations, knowledge, datas, etc.
- iii. There is a TK Bill which sits at the Ministry of Culture & Tourism, but more focused on areas around Traditional Knowledge and Culture oriented. There should be a body which oversees the overall knowledge and informations or data more holistically or are integrating all sectors for Solomon Islands.

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Additional list of National data Holders& their Partners

1. Kansas University and Natural History Museum of Kansas University, USA. They have data for frogs, reptiles, mammals and birds.
2. University of New Mexico, mostly bird research
3. University of the South Pacific and South Pacific Regional Herbarium. Guadalcanal expedition in 2015. They have plants, frogs, moss, insects, aquatic fauna, reptiles, mammals and birds.
4. University of Florida through Professor Albert Uy. He is now at University of Rochester in USA. Mostly bird data
5. University of Queensland and now ANU with Dr. Tyrone on Mammals research
6. Bishop Museum on Aquatic fauna and insects.
7. French Museum on Aquatic fauna - fish and prawns
8. American Museum. Mostly all terrestrial taxa, marine coral reef and fish.
9. Pacific Adventist University with Patrick Pikacha on reptiles, frogs, birds plants and mammals
10. Plants with Dr. Eric Katovai with PAU, USP and soon to be SINU.

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ACRONYMS

MECDM-Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology

ECD-Environment and Conservation

MAL-Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MoFR-Ministry of Forestry and Research

MFMR-Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources

ESSI-Ecological Solutions of Solomon Islands

SIRA-Solomon Islands Rangers Association

TNC-The Nature Conservancy

L&L-Live and Learn

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